WRMH Records

Chief Announcer notes

undated

Box 2 Folder 18

Chief Crunchie

Basically, I've enjoyed being chief announcer, but I'm kind of glad to be leaving the job after one semester. Next year, however, it ought to become easier. The main difficulty I encountered was the lack of a coherent plan for the new programme started this year. Of course, this was partly my own fault, but it should be cleared up by the next chief announcer and planned out at the start of the year. For instance, there were two conflicting attitudes which I failed to reconcile as well as I could have. On the one hand was the idea that the new d.j.'s should be on the air in internships and late-night shows as early as possible, to maximise their time on the air while on the other hand was the idea that the new programme should be long to make them demonstrate some kind of staying power, as well as to give them as much training as we could. I think that three training sessions are the ideal number, but we ought to have known exactly what we were going to do at each one before any of them instead of deciding before each of them. That said, the delay in getting the new d.j.'s on was still available to some extent. Twice unforseeable circumstances caused us to push training back, and then I was negligent in correcting the tests, finishing them a week later than I should have.

This brings me to another thing that needs to be redone. The test has some poor questions which ought to be reworded and in a couple of places I couldn't count a question because what we had been saying in training sessions did not coincide with what was written in the d.j. manual. I think the manual ought to be redone to bring it into line with the training programme and the test, and I'd be happy to help with that.

Assigning 75 d.j.'s to internships and late-night shows became frustrating and created another point where lack of a solid plan led to compromise. I wasn't sure whether only the best shows should get interns or whether we should

spread them out more evenly. The next c.a. will have to decide on this beforehand, as well as the question of whether new d.j.'s should be steered toward shows which play new music so that they can learn about it or placed in the shows they like, which may not be so good. This year, I tried to put a larger number of d.j.'s into the shows I thought were the best and with experienced d.j.'s I thought would be the most helpful, but I did put some people into shows about which I wasn't so sure. The late-night shifts worked out well, I think, though I felt at times like a mini-program director in coördinating the rotating schedule.

The other part of the job involves printing, collecting, and correcting the programme logs. We've reformatted them and I think they look good now, incorporating all the important information. Correcting the logs is trouble since many d.j.'s seem not to know how to fill them out. I still plan to post a model log in MCR, showing some common errors. If the problem persists, perhaps a mailing to each d.j. would be in order.

Now let me go back to the tests, because grading them sucked. I originally hadn't planned to go through each individual test and assign points to each question to decide who would pass. But the rest of the E-Board convinced me that some people had to fail, and that quantifying the questions was the way to do it. I still feel bad about having to fail people, and I think those who do fail ought to be encouraged to stay involved by retaking the test the following semester. This goes back to redoing the manual and test, because the main reason I felt bad about failing people was that it seemed the score on the test was not such a good indicator of potential d.j. quality as it ought to be.

Michael Arthur